

Remarks:

This amendment is submitted in an earnest effort to advance this case to issue without delay. The examiner has indicated that the case contains allowable subject matter.

All claims but claim 12 have been allowed.

Claim 12 has been rejected on the combination of US patent 5,718,609 of Braun and 5,608,604 of Francis.

Francis describes a notebook-computer hinge that is used to ground a display. Thus this reference deals with nonanalogous subject matter to that of the instant invention, namely a smart-card reader.

In addition Francis relates to a hinge as a separate part, not one that is integral with the structure it supports. Additional conductors 146 and 148 are provided since the hinge itself is not conductive, unlike the instant invention, which has a pair of conductive parts that contact each other and form the current path.

Thus claim 12 is also allowable over the cited art.

If only minor problems that could be corrected by means of a telephone conference stand in the way of allowance of this case, the examiner is invited to call the undersigned to make the necessary corrections.

Respectfully submitted,
The Firm of Karl F. Ross P.C.



by: Andrew Wilford, 26,597
Attorney for Applicant

15 September 2004
5676 Riverdale Avenue Box 900
Bronx, NY 10471-0900
Cust. No.: 535
Tel: (718) 884-6600
Fax: (718) 601-1099

Enclosure: None.